

REMARKS

With entry of this amendment, claims 1, 4 – 6, 19 – 22 and 24 – 26 are pending, and claim 1 is amended. This amendment clarifies the antecedent basis of (c) and (d) of claim 1. By an agreement reached during the December 21, 2004 telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, applicants understand that claim 22 will be rejoined.

Priority Document

As evidenced by the attached Notification of Missing Requirement Under 35 U.S.C. 371, the USPTO has received the priority document, i.e. the a certified copy of the priority document JP 11/194179, from the International Bureau of WIPO. Acknowledgement of receipt of the certified copy of the priority document is respectfully requested in the next communication from the Examiner.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C § 112

Based on the December 21, 2004 telephone interview between the Examiner and the undersigned, applicants believe that claims are in condition for allowance and overcome the outstanding rejections under 35 USC § 112.

Conclusion

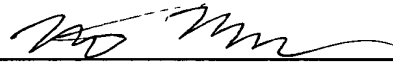
Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

Date January 18, 2005

FOLEY & LARDNER LLP
Customer Number: 22428
Telephone: (202) 672-5300
Facsimile: (202) 672-5399


Matthew E. Mulkeen
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 44, 250